

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 EB-12 OMB-01 DRC-01 /118 W

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R 030210Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6240

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6552

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, KS

SUBJECT: FONMIN KIM DONG JO AND FONMIN KIMURA CONVERSATIONS

1. LAST EVENING (OCTOBER 2), AMBASSADOR USHIROKU GAVE AMBASSADOR BRIEF RUNDOWN ON CONVERSATION BETWEEN FONMIN KIM DONG JO AND FONMIN KIMURA IN WASHINGTON. USHIROKU REPORT BASED ON TELEGRAM FROM AMBASSADOR YASUKAWA.
2. DURING CONVERSATION, FONMIN KIM TOOK INITIATIVE TO INVITE KIMURA TO VISIT SEOUL FOR A MINISTERIAL MEETING REPLACING REGULAR MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE BETWEEN ROK AND GOJ, WHICH OBVIOUSLY WILL NOT BE HELD THIS YEAR. KIM SUGGESTED FURTHER THAT IN FUTURE THE ANNUAL MINISTERIAL MEETING BE HEADED BY THE TWO FONMINS. (ROK DELEGATION HAS BEEN HEADED BY DPM, A FACT RESENTED BY KOREAN FONMINS IN PAST.)
3. KIMURA DEMURRED FROM IMMEDIATELY ACCEPTING INVITATION ON GROUNDS THAT HIS REPUTATION IN SEOUL NOT RPT NOT VERY GOOD AT PRESENT TIME AND HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT AROUSING RENEWED CRITICISM OF HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENTS. FONMIN KIM REASSURED HIM THAT HE WOULD RECEIVE WARM WELCOME AND URGED HIM TO COME TO SEOUL BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. KIMURA THEN APPARENTLY TENTATIVELY AGREED.

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4. WHEN KIMURA RETURNED TO TOKYO HE FOUND HIMSELF IN

HOT WATER SINCE ECONOMIC MINISTERS WERE NOT PLEASED TO GIVE UP THEIR ANNUAL CONFERENCE WITH KOREANS, LARGELY ON PROTOCOL GROUNDS.

5. USHIROKU INDICATED DECISION NOW BEING HELD IN ABEYANCE.

6. COMMENT: REACTION OF JAPANESE ECONOMIC CABINET MINISTERS NOT SURPRISING GIVEN PROBLEMS WE HAVE HAD WITH CUTTING BACK ON NUMBER OF MINISTERS ATTENDING U.S./JAPAN CABINET MEETINGS. ADDITIONALLY, MOFA SOURCES INDICATE FONMIN KIM HAS NOT COMPLETELY REPORTED HIS CONVERSATION, LET ALONE CLEARED IT WITH HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES. HOWEVER, THEY SUSPECT THAT KIM IN FACT DID MAKE PROPOSAL EXACTLY ALONG LINES REPORTED ABOVE BY JAPANESE.
SNEIDER

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